

Lunenburg Council on Aging Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2010

Minutes Approved at the 1/11/11 COA Meeting

Present: Pete Lincoln (Chairperson), Doreen Noble (Director), Mary Lynn Conrad (Vice Chairperson), Fred Crellin, Jane Doyle, Joyce Wass, Barbara Brown, Sandy Flanagan, Sis Montuori, Jim Hays, Deb Seeley and Susan Doherty (Admin. Asst.)

Guest: John Male

Welcome: Pete Lincoln, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.
Pete introduced John Male to the board. John told the board that he will be the liaison from the Town of Lunenburg Finance Committee and will be occasionally attending the monthly COA meetings.

Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to accept the November 9, 2010 COA meeting minutes. All approved, motion carried.

Director's Report:

Finance/Informational Report:

A COA budget sheet was given to all members to review.

Doreen reported that the Eagle House was closed on Wednesday December 8, 2010 due to staff illness. She had spoken to the Town Manager and received permission to close the building for the day.

Although it is flu season, a student from the Ace/Achieve program at the High School had been arriving with the job coach with obvious signs of sickness to work in the food service area. Doreen contacted the Department Head of the Ace/Achieve program and requested that the students who are ill not be brought to the Eagle House for work. Unfortunately this message was not communicated and the student returned on December 13th still exhibiting signs of illness. The Job Coach and students were sent back to school and Doreen is currently in the process of speaking with the Principal Mike Barney about this situation. She feels that they did not adhere to the agreement which was made about not sending the students when they are sick. She will request that they do not return to the senior center until the cold/flu season is over in the spring.

After a lengthy discussion about this issue, a motion was made and seconded to support the Council on Aging Director in her actions regarding the Special Education Department at the High School. All approved, motion carried.

Doreen has applied for a Mobility Assistance Program Grant for another van for the senior center. This van is an eight passenger van, with lift equipment, with a price tag of \$54,879.00. If this grant is received it will be at no cost to the Town of Lunenburg. It will be federally funded at 80 % and Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MART) will fund the other 20 %. Doreen had met with Joann Champa from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation in November and Ms. Champa felt confident that Lunenburg would be approved for this grant. This bus will be used on a more "flexible" basis and will not have many of the existing regulations that the current MART van must adhere to. She will be checking into the maintenance part of the vehicle as to who will be responsible for the mechanical upkeep.

Pete Lincoln congratulated Doreen on a job well done. Doreen also said that Faith Anderson helped with answering the questions on the grant and thanked her for doing so.

The COA Finance Committee met a 9AM before this meeting to discuss the upcoming budget. The financial budget package has not been received from the Town Manager yet and they will meet again on January 11th at 9AM.

The intern from Fitchburg State finished her program with us on December 3rd. Doreen stated that she did a satisfactory job. Another intern candidate will be coming in for an interview on December 15th.

Sixteen people have completed the Lunenburg Senior Citizen Property Tax Work Off program. The new job list for 2011 will be available soon and will have approximately fourteen positions on it.

Doreen thanked Jane Doyle for donating the new Wii Game System to the Eagle House. Hopefully we can get a Wii bowling league started at the center. She also thanked Pete & Deb Lincoln for the large soda and popcorn donation they made to the Friday afternoon movies.

More roof repairs to the newer section of the building had begun but unfortunately the roofer fell ill with a heart attack and work has stopped. Jim Breault, Facilities Manager for the town said that they got the weather shield on which should be sufficient and he is trying to contact the roofer to figure out when he will be able to complete the job.

She also stated that the front foyer is on the list for repair.

There are still small leaks in the sprinkler system which stemmed from the damage incurred during the 2009 ice storm and they need to be repaired at an estimated cost of \$3500. to \$4000. The system is not compromised at this time.

Pete Lincoln stated that he received a phone call at home from an irate van rider. The person claimed that he was being discriminated against because he was given a thirty day probation by the Director. Doreen explained her reasons for the warning which were that the person was trying to transport a “30 pack” of beer on the bus and he appeared intoxicated.

Doreen informed the board that she has applied for the Director’s position in Pepperell and had received word that she has been added to the top three applicants and will be going for another interview on January 6, 2011.

Old Business:

Parking Lot/Housing Rehab Grant: Doreen was not able to attend the final Eagle House parking lot meeting with the Selectmen’s Office due to illness. Shelly Hatch from MRPC was unable to attend also but sent her assistant to answer any questions that they had. Apparently the Board of Selectmen were not pleased with signing off on the project claiming they had not received all of the information that they were supposed to have. The grant announcement will be in April 2011.

A discussion was held among the board about how much of a “dangerous situation” this could become if this was not passed. The general consensus was that a “Plan B” should be in place.

New Business:

Eagle House Closure: Discussed under Director’s Report

Friends of the Eagle House Inc. President Resignation: Due to health issues Lloyd Carlson has resigned as President of the Friends of the Eagle House Inc. A letter will be written to him thanking him for his service to the Eagle House.

Committee Reports: Discussed under Director’s Report

Correspondence: Letters addressed to both Doreen Noble and Sue Doherty from the Lunenburg Turkey Hill Family Lions Club were read. Both letters expressed regret for the “misunderstanding” of the grill use donation request which was made by Sue last summer for the COA Volunteer Appreciation Cookout and was denied by an individual in the organization. The board thought that the letters did not bring a solution to the problem. COA board member Barbara Brown, who is also a member of the Lions Club, will speak to the Lions Club at the next meeting about this matter.

General Discussion: Happy Holidays was wished to all members.

Upcoming Events: See attached agenda.

Adjournment: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.
All approved, and the motion was carried. The meeting ended at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Doherty, Administrative Assistant